



### Our Curriculum

**AMBITION FOR ALL:** Our aim is to provide an education at Garstang St Thomas School that is **excellent** and meets the needs of all children.

Our aim is that all our children leave school:

- with a great love of learning
- confident, resilient, independent and inquisitive
- able to communicate (reading, writing, speaking and listening) to a first-class standard
- with secure skills and having a rich knowledge and understanding in all areas of the wide curriculum which enable an excellent start to secondary education (having had many opportunities to use their knowledge and skills)
- having gained a wealth of experiences; informal, formal, in the classroom, in our extensive school grounds and through many visits and visitors
- demonstrating our Christian values and in doing so able to make a positive contribution to the world
- having the understanding and skills that help them to have a healthy and safe start to their lives
- being able to collaborate and work together with all others with a good understanding and passion for equality
- having knowledge, respect and appreciation for our local community in Garstang, in Lancashire, our nation, as well as the wider world
- having a strong sense of their own identity and their place in 21st century society enabling them to flourish in the future
- with excellent behaviour and highly positive attitudes and commitment to their education
- knowing that by continuing to learn and work hard, they are capable of great things
- having happy memories of being part of a loving school family

Our overarching school aim is that our children acquire the knowledge and skills to take actions to make individual lives, society and the world better.

Our ambitious, bespoke curriculum has been designed carefully meeting the legal requirements in the EYFS and the National curriculum. Our curriculum is planned and sequenced in a coherent way that supports children to meet our aims.

Areas of our curriculum are taught discretely but others are linked together as topics. This not only helps children understand what they are learning (and why they are learning it), but also to attach ideas and skills to specific contexts which helps them to better remember what they have learnt. Children in Years 1-6 know which subject they are being taught in each lesson to allow them to develop appreciation and love of learning in that subject as well as supporting the development of subject-specific knowledge.

We have four main curriculum drivers which are evident throughout our curriculum and also in general school life. The drivers of **knowledge, aspiration, respect** and **action**, directly link to our school vision and mission statement.

**KNOWLEDGE**

We want all our children to love learning. We encourage children to be curious and to have a thirst for knowledge. Teachers ensure that the curriculum is planned and sequenced carefully in order to build on what has already been taught. Children revisit new learning until it is secure. Throughout the curriculum, learning is celebrated. We believe knowledge of language is essential for success in education and therefore our curriculum is language rich – we use high-quality texts and provide children with opportunities to practise and secure new vocabulary. We are driven to ensure our children have knowledge across the curriculum to make an excellent start at secondary school and beyond.



Throughout our curriculum, children are encouraged to be the best that they can be, by having aspirational goals and challenging themselves as learners. In all areas of learning we strive to present a diverse range of role models to enable broadening of experiences. Our children are taught that attitude, effort, belief and continuous improvement are part of the learning process and a route to success. Children are encouraged to develop a growth mindset in the understanding that there are challenges and we can learn from them. Rich and varied learning experiences are designed with great thought and care, ensuring that they are ambitious and challenging for all children. We work to broaden our children's horizons, expanding their knowledge of the world through many educational trips, visitors and range of learning activities.

**ASPIRATION**



**RESPECT**

We believe our children need to develop the skills to work well with other people. We recognise the need for our children to experience life outside of our immediate local area and, with care and attention, teachers plan for learning activities both in school and on educational visits to enable this to happen. Children need to know how to listen, speak, debate, express opinions and challenge with respect in a variety of different situations and therefore we teach oracy and provide many different opportunities across school to develop effective communication skills. We teach children to respect others, the environment and, of course, themselves.



We believe that to get the most out of education, children need to engage and play an active role. We support our children to develop their skills so that they are confident, active learners. We encourage our children to engage in all aspects of education including taking personal responsibility; putting themselves forward for opportunities and taking their own learning forward at home. We endeavour to mobilise our children to serve and lead both now and in the future. We teach our children about topical issues and encourage our children to actively engage in activities to bring about positive change.

**ACTION**

